UPCOMING LIVE DATES

WILSON PICKETT

BRISTOL Top Rank (May 5), LONDON Edmonton Regal (6), READING Top Rank (7), LIVERPOOL Top Rank (8), SHEFFIELD Top Rank (10), CARDIFF Top Rank (11), WATFORD Top Rank (12), LONDON Hammersmith Odeon (13), BIRMINGHAM Top Rank (14).

NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

After appearing at Bickershaw Festival on May 7, group visits SOUTHAMPTON University (9), GUILDFORD Surrey University (12), KINGSTON Polytechnic (13), COLCHESTER Essex University (14), BIRMINGHAM University (17).

COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA

OXFORD New (May 7), FARNWORTH Blighty's (8), BRIGHTON (9), STOCKTON ABC (11), SOUTHPORT Floral Hall (12), NOTTINGHAM Albert Hall (13), LONDON Hammersmith Odeon (14). All shows with Joe Williams and Big Joe Turner.

ATOMIC ROOSTER

Atomic Rooster are putting together a new stage show and are flying in an American lighting technician for this purpose — he is Walt Latimer, who has worked with Jimi Hendrix. Debut of the new act will be at the Leicester Festival on May 27.

BEACH BOYS

NEWCASTLE City Hall (May 16); BIRMINGHAM Kinetic Circus (18); MANCHESTER Belle Vue (19); LIVERPOOL Empire (20); READING Top Rank (22); BRISTOL Top Rank (23); BRIGHTON Dome (24); LONDON Royal Festival Hall (27); LINCOLN Great Western Express Festival (28).

COUNTRY JOE McDONALD

Additional dates: LONDON Imperial College (28 and 29), BRIGHTON Sussex University (May 1), EXETER University (2), BIRMINGHAM University (3), GLASGOW University (6), LUTON College (13).

INEZ FOXX

TUNSTALL Golden Torch and OAKENGATES Town Hall (May 12), CARLISLE Cosmo club (14). Remaining venues for her three-week one-nighter tour are still being finalised.

AL STEWART

CANTERBURY Kent University (April 22), BRISTOL Colston Hall (May 1), OXFORD Town Hall (5), HULL University (13). All two hour shows — one half solo, and the remainder with his newly-formed group.

ANDREW JOHN

The British folk singer, currently residing in Denmark, returns here next month for dates at NORWICH Jacquard (May 4), BISHOPS STORTFORD Railway Hotel (5), LONDON Cousins (6), Implosion at LONDON Roundhouse (7), HAVANT Jug o' Punch (11), LONDON Earls Court Troubadour (13), BRIGHTON Stamford Arms (14).

BREWER'S DROOP

LONDON Fulham Greyhound (April 20), CARMARTHEN Trinity College (21), SWANSEA College of Education (22), MADELEY College (26), NEWPORT Kensington Court (27), NOTTINGHAM Trent Polytechnic (28), HITCHIN College (29).

ARTHUR CONLEY

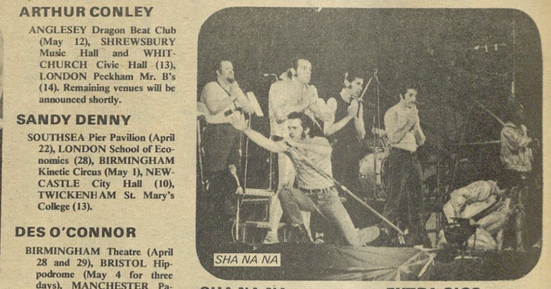
ANGLESEY Dragon Beat Club (May 12), SHREWSBURY Music Hall and WHITCHURCH Civic Hall (13), LONDON Peckham Mr. B's (14). Remaining venues will be announced shortly.

SANDY DENNY

SOUTHSEA Pier Pavilion (April 22), LONDON School of Economics (28), BIRMINGHAM Kinetic Circus (May 1), NEWCASTLE City Hall (10), TWICKENHAM St. Mary's College (13).

DES O'CONNOR

BIRMINGHAM Theatre (April 28 and 29), BRISTOL Hippodrome (May 4 for three days), MANCHESTER Palace (11 for three days), GLASGOW Kelvin Hall Arena (14), SOUTHAMPTON Gaumont (18 and 19), PLYMOUTH ABC (20), NOTTINGHAM Theatre Royal (26 and 27), BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion (29 week).



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LONDON Royal Albert Hall (June 8), NEWCASTLE Mayfair (9), HULL University (10), KENILWORTH Chesford Grange (11), MANCHESTER Belle Vue (12), SHEFFIELD University (16), LIVERPOOL Stadium (17), PORTSMOUTH South Parade Pier (18), CARDIFF University (21), PLYMOUTH Guildhall (22), EXETER University (23), SUTTON COLDFIELD Belfry (24), HANLEY Victoria Hall (25).

SMILEY

DUNDEE Angus Hotel (April 20), BANGOR Normal College (21), WENSBURY Montessa (22), FIFE RAF Leuchars (27), EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms (28), MELROSE Waverley Castle Hotel (29).

STACKRIDGE

Supported by the Pigsty Hill Light Orchestra: BRISTOL Polytechnic (April 21), WESTON-SUPER-MARE Winter Gardens (22), PENZANCE Garden (27), BATH University (28), BEDFORD College of Education (29).

EXTRA GIGS

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON: additional concert set for BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens on May 16.

ROGER WHITTAKER concert at FOLKESTONE Leas Cliff Hall on Thursday, April 20.

ROY ORBISON plays two-week engagement at SHEFFIELD Fiesta from July 2.

FANTASTICS: DONCASTER Top Rank (April 28), WHITCHURCH Civic Hall and OAKENGATES Town Hall (29).

MUDDY WATERS returns to Britain for a concert and one-nighter tour from June 19 to July 2.

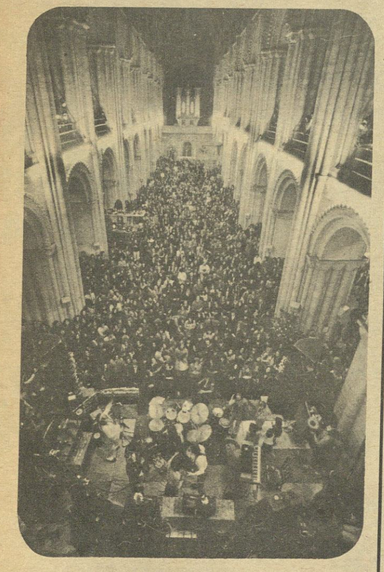
MEDICINE HEAD in concert at BASINGSTOKE Haymarket Theatre on May 6.

CAN

British tour by one of Germany's leading bands: LONDON University College (April 28), LEICESTER University (29), BRIGHTON Sussex University (May 3), OXFORD Polytechnic (6), COLCHESTER Essex University (8), LEEDS University (10), PLYMOUTH Guildhall (11), TAUNTON County Ballroom (12), BRISTOL Polytechnic (13).

JOHNNY NASH

MANCHESTER Carib Club (April 22), WOLVERHAMPTON 67 Club (23), PORTSMOUTH Locarno (24), NOTTINGHAM Calypso (28), HUDDERSFIELD (29), LONDON Peckham Mr. B's (30).



QUINTESSENCE PLANNING MORE CATHEDRAL GIGS

An incredible picture of a rock concert in the hallowed portals of one of Britain's loveliest cathedrals. Some 2,000 people packed Norwich Cathedral for the QUINTESSENCE concert there last Friday. And the group, delighted with the success of the venture, are now planning a string of similar presentations.

RADIO TV GUIDE

THURSDAY

RADIO 1
7 a.m. Tony Blackburn; 9.0 Jimmy Young with Cliff Richard, Newbeats, Middle Of The Road, Anne Murray and Bruce Ruffin; 11.0 Dave Lee Travis with New Seekers, Elgins, Roy Young Band, White Plains and Equals; 1 p.m. Johnnie Walker with Mixtures, Ben E. King, Carly Simon, Nashville Teens and Mac & Katie Kissoon; 3.0 Alan Freeman with Peter Noone, New World, Bay City Rollers and Pickettywitch; 5.0-6.0 "What's New" with Noel Edmonds; 10.0-12 midnight "Sounds Of The Seventies" with Sam Mitchell and Running Man.

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Dave Christian; 10.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TELEVISION
"Top Of The Pops" (BBC-1); repeat of play "The Long Distance Piano Player" starring Ray Davies of the Kinks (BBC-1).

FRIDAY

RADIO 1
7 a.m.-5 p.m. As Thursday; 5.0-6.0 "Rosko's Round Table"; 10.0-12 midnight "Sounds Of The Seventies" with the Johnstons, Mick Softley and Budgie.

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Dave Christian; 9.30 Mark Wesley; 11.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. John Peel; 2.0 Mark Wesley.

TELEVISION
Tony Bennett and Max Bygraves in the "Sun" Television Awards (ITV); Sandie Shaw in "Zingalong" (ITV).

SATURDAY

RADIO 1
8 a.m. "Junior Choice"; 9.55 Stuart Henry; 12 noon Rosko; 2 p.m. The Baron; 4.0 "Scene And Heard"; 5.0 Dave Simmons; 6.30-7.30 "In Concert" with Vinegar Joe and Hookfoot.

RADIO 2
7.30-8.30 p.m. "Country Meets Folk".

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Dave Christian; 10.30 Mark Wesley; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TELEVISION
Val Doonican, Noel Harrison and Design in "Saturday Variety" (ITV); Oscar Peterson Trio in "Sounds For Saturday" (BBC-2); "Ken Dodd Show" (ITV); Vicky Leandros in "Tarbuck's Luck" (BBC-1); The Jackson Five cartoon series (London ITV); rare Al Jolson screen role in film "Rose Of Washington Square" (BBC-2).

SUNDAY

RADIO 1
9 a.m. "Junior Choice"; 10.0 Noel Edmonds; 12 noon "Family Favourites"; 2 p.m. "Savile's Travels"; 3.0 "Speak-Easy"; 4.0 Rosko presents "Rock'n'Roll Is Here To Stay"; 5.0-7.0 "Pick Of The Pops".

RADIO 2
2.30-3 p.m. The Bachelors; 4.0-5.0 "Folk On Sunday"; 11.0-1 a.m. Jazz.

LUXEMBOURG
7 p.m. Mark Wesley; 10.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TELEVISION
More highlights from Easter C-&-W Festival at Wembley (BBC-2); Roger Whittaker and Dorothy Squires in "The Golden Shot" (ITV); T. Rex in "Music In The Round" (some ITV regions); Eartha Kitt and Terry Lightfoot's Jazzmen in "The Good Old Days" (BBC-1); Pete Townshend of the Who interviewed by studio audience in "How Can You Be So Sure?" (BBC-1).

MONDAY

RADIO 1
7 a.m. Tony Blackburn; 9.0 Jimmy Young with Gene Pitney and Lindisfarne; 11.0 Ed Stewart (substituting for Dave Lee Travis) with Cliff Richard, the Drifters, Doris Troy, Donnie Elbert and Carl Wayne; 1 p.m. Johnnie Walker with Mungo Jerry, Marmalade, Elgins and Brown's Home Brew; 3.0 Alan Freeman with the Drifters, the Troggs, White Plains and the Flirtations; 5.0-6.0 "What's New"; 10.0-12 midnight "Sounds Of The Seventies" with Junkyard Angel.

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Dave Christian; 9.30 Mark Wesley; 11.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TUESDAY

RADIO 1
7 a.m.-6 p.m. As Monday; 10.0-12 midnight "Sounds Of The Seventies" with Barclay James Harvest in John Peel's "Top Gear".

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Mark Wesley; 9.30 Dave Christian; 11.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TELEVISION
Manfred Mann's Earth Band and Linda Lewis in "The Old Grey Whistle Test" (BBC-2); Des O'Connor in "Des" (ITV).

WEDNESDAY

RADIO 1
7 a.m.-6 p.m. As Monday; 10.0-12 midnight "Sounds Of The Seventies" with Alan Black and Bob Harris.

LUXEMBOURG
7.30 p.m. Dave Christian; 9.30 Mark Wesley; 11.0 Bob Stewart; 1 a.m. Kid Jensen.

TELEVISION
Gene Pitney, Peter Straker and Ayshea in "Lift Off" (ITV); Moira Anderson and Clive Dunn in "The Bob Monkhouse Hour" (ITV).

MANFRED MANN: "The Old Grey Whistle Test" (BBC-2 next Tuesday)

CLUB CALL:

CROYDON GREYHOUND

Bargain rock

ONE OF the finest places to hear live rock in London isn't quite in London. Its just over the Southern boundary — in beautiful, downtown Croydon.

The place is The Fox, at The Greyhound, Park Lane, Croydon. It sounds like a dog-race, but just follow your ears and you'll find a club designed for sophisticated listeners. Always on Sunday night you can expect quality live shows.

You can hop a British Rail train to East Croydon from London Bridge and be there after a half-hour trip and a five-minute walk.

To regulars among the 3,000 members, The Greyhound is the "in" place. They feel a strong sense of identification with its spirit.

A roster of main bands during April gives you an idea of the quality. April 2, Argent; 9, Atomic Rooster; 16, Fairport Convention; 23, Genesis; 30, Status Quo.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION: One of the Greyhound's upcoming name bands.

The rooms over the pub were recently re-decorated, to the tune of £40,000, which is a lot of ambience. When I went I just expected a tired old pub with a smallish room above. In fact, there are three rooms capable of holding more than 600 people comfortably.

The novelty of the Greyhound is that it's like an open-air festival brought under a roof, carpeted, clean and comfortable. There are no chairs in the main room, just a huge set of tarps covering the thick carpets. Listeners sit, squat, stretch out, or stand in semi-darkness and listen to very live acoustics of quality bands.

For the restless, there is a bar-room just in the back. This keeps the shuffling and chatter in the main room down, and is also a nice little rumpus room for the people not keen on the opening band.

Annual membership costs 20 pence. The average concert costs an additional 50 pence for members and 60 pence for guests. This is quality music at bargain prices.

The music started in November, 1969. Not surprisingly, operators Brian and Steve Mason will tell you that it is the biggest, best rock club in South London. Perhaps more believable, the members say that also.

Something right must be going on, for nearly every name rock band has worked there — including Faces, Free, Yes, Edgar Broughton, Deep Purple.

The place opens at 7 p.m. each Sunday with bright disco music until 7.45, then the first band goes on for an hour. Then there's the featured band, and closedown is at 11 p.m. sharp.

Some hard-core members come from as far afield as Worthing and Brighton. Once you've been the Masons maintain, you find it easy to return. I agree.

—STACEY WILLIAMS

FRONT ROW REVIEWS

DUBLINERS

IT'S ALWAYS a wonder to me how the Dubliners manage to maintain the sort of tours they undertake. The shows are not short-measure — last Saturday's at the London Festival Hall had a good two hours of singing and playing — and it must be a bit wearing to make it all appear fresh night after night (something the Dubliners are good at).

The lads stuck pretty much in the first half to a safe repertoire of standards such as "The Ragman's Ball", moving into the second half with a set of Irish political ballads that included "Black Velvet Band", "Rising Of The Moon", "Henry Joy", and "Take It Down From The Mast".

This set was largely what the capacity audience had come to hear — except, that is, for a very few ignorant shouters who seem to believe that the Dubliners are personally and exclusively responsible for the present Troubles.

John Sheehan's outstanding fiddle-playing enlivened the evening, as did Barney McKenna's banjo impressions of a simple Irish tune as it might suffer in the hands of a Scot, an Englishman, a Chinese, and a Bluegrass artist.

The key to their relaxed style is casualness. "I'll sing you this song", said Ronnie Drew, "and if I forget the words I'll sing you another instead." That's not just a gimmick — Drew means it. It's a part of the unspoiled natural air that (even after all their years together) still characterises a good evening out with the Dubliners. — ERIC WINTER.

QUINTESSENCE

NORWICH CATHEDRAL, an architectural monument with a spire that reaches above the city, was an apt setting for the music of Quintessence on Friday. Pews were removed, a stage erected, and 3,000 people bustled in to witness the occasion.

The six-piece group, with a large choir including small children, took the stage; and the vibes poured forth, creating a warm, celestial atmosphere, the smell of incense perfuming the air.

As the group played, a film crew stalked the stage, audience and gallery. We were up there, way above the crowd, and it was one of the most amazing sights to be seen.

As usual, Quintessence were on form. But judging from other press reactions, I feel their music is more of an acquired taste. I have the taste, and a pretty insatiable appetite.

Their music has a vitality stemming from the percussiveness of drummer Jake, Sambhu's bass, and Shiva's conga work, with an overlay of musical dexterity from the soloists, flautist Raja Ram, and guitarist Allan. Dave provides a filling setting guitar.

Out front Shiva takes the vocal leads; made all the more beautiful by the choir. And he has a talent for improvisation, which obviously communicates and brings in audience participation.

Though it was a good concert — the band coming up with a lot of old and new material — there is room for improvement, for example a better understanding in the rhythm section, and a sharper snare beat. Also a greater control over the length of improvised passages — but I do feel most of them are successful in their objective.

Quintessence were a beautiful sight. A multitude of colours inking a back colour. A high power spot light pointed on the group. They seem, in fact, to have everything. — TONY STEWART.

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THURSDAY 13th APRIL CENTRAL HALL, CHATHAM
SUNDAY 16th APRIL ST. GEORGE'S HALL, BLACKBURN
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7.30p.m. TICKETS 70p available normal agents
an Adrian Hopkins Presentation

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ROBERT PATERSON presents:

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